

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

God pursues the lost.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
Monday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses pleads for the people
Tuesday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for mercy
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 7:7-11	A chosen people
Thursday	Acts 26:12-18	Paul's conversion
Friday	Ezekiel 36:22-32	Renewal of Israel
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-10	A prayer for forgiveness
Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' " **Luke 15:6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you who pursue the lost with love and mercy, give us the joy of being found and redeemed through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord God, fill our hungry hearts with joy for your mercy and steadfast love as you fill our bodies with this food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord create in you a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within you. (Psalm 51:10)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Awesome God



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you or someone you know has been lost.
- Tell or think about a time you lost something and then found it.
- In Luke 15, the Pharisees and the scribes cannot express joy that Jesus has found the lost, the "sinners and tax collectors." Why do you think this is?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 15:1-10.

Sinners and tax collectors show interest in Jesus. They want to listen to him. Jesus, by welcoming them and eating with them shows acceptance of them. In the words of 1 Timothy, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1:15). This baffles the religious leaders, the Pharisees and scribes. Jesus points out that what it should bring is joy. He says, "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (v. 10). God pursues us like a shepherd seeking a lost sheep or a poor widow seeking a lost coin. We are the lost sinners who have been found by God's pursuit. Instead of being disappointed by God's extravagant love, instead of being baffled by the lost being found, let us give thanks to God for the power and desire of God to save sinners and the joy that comes with being found by God's love and mercy. Does it bring you joy to know you are the lost who has been found, the sinner who has been saved? Explain.

Pray: **Merciful God, help us to recall our great need and your great love that reaches out to us again and again, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus gives us strength to do our work and serve him. Paul writes, "he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service" (1 Timothy 1:12b). Paul's life was changed because of God's grace. In what ways do we respond to God's saving grace through service and acts of kindness towards others? How do these acts of kindness change us? How do they change others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Psalm 51:10 the image of a clean heart is used to ask for God's forgiveness. Sin and doing wrong can hurt others. We are all guilty of sin. Read Psalm 51:1-10 and circle all the words that have to do with cleaning: cleanse, clean, wash, etc. and write the word "confession" in the margins. Take a bar of soap and use a pencil or knife (a plastic knife will work) to trace a heart on the bar of soap. Carve out the shape of the heart. When you use the heart to wash your hands, say: **Create in me a clean heart, O God** (Psalm 51:10a), as a daily reminder of confession in your home.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org